

HA-1794
1889
Bel Air
Private

The Lee House, 330 W. Gordon, faces south on a narrow, tree-shaded lot in Richardson's Addition. Built in 1889, it is one of Bel Air's ubiquitous 2 story, 2 bay, front-gable Victorians with a front ell and a slate roof.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. This is one of the earlier houses built in the addition, although its like can be found all over town. The front-gable Victorian, with or without ell, was the premier style of choice in Bel Air from 1870 through about 1890, when it was replaced with Bel Air's own symmetrical version of the Queen Anne style.

HA-1794
Lee House
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

 x 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SH-1724

Magi No. _____

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Lee House

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number 330 W. Gordon St. n/a not for publicationcity, town Bel Air _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 3rdstate MD county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Bernard E. Gemmillstreet & number 330 W. Gordon St. telephone no.: 838-3364city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1211street & number _____ folio 42city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local ☐

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1724

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The Lee House, 330 W. Gordon, faces south on a narrow, tree-shaded lot. Built in 1889, it is one of Bel Air's ubiquitous 2 story, 2 bay, front-gable Victorians with a front ell and a slate roof.

Now clad in white aluminum siding, it has 2/2 double-hung sash windows flanked by black plastic shutters, except for those in the gables. The hip-roofed front (south) porch wraps around the ell to meet the main block. It is carried on square posts, the middle two of which still have their simple carved brackets. The balustrade is recent. An enclosed porch with a shed roof on the rear contains a bath in the western half. A slate mantel decorates the south wall of the small living room. Upstairs are 3 bedrooms and a bath.

Entry is in the east bay of the front ell; it leads directly to the living room. To the rear (north) are an enclosed straight run staircase on the west and a transverse hall to the east which leads to a door in the side porch, reportedly originally the entrance. To the north lie the dining room (east) with a space heater backed by brick in the northeast corner, and the kitchen with pantry to the west. Behind that is the rear enclosed porch with bath. From the construction, it looks as if it was always enclosed.

Upstairs, there were originally 3 bedrooms. Part of the northwest one was taken to install the bath, but the southeast bedroom has recently been partitioned into 2, so there are still 3. Woodwork is plain throughout. The attic is unfinished.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1794

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man;s housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. This is one of the earlier houses built in the addition, although its like can be found all over town. The front-gable Victorian, with or without ell, was the premier style of choice in Bel Air from 1870 through about 1890, when it was replaced with Bel Air's own symmetrical version of the Queen Anne style. Built by William Lee in 1889, this house stayed in the Lee family until the late 1960s. Florist R. Henry Lee, William's son, had several greenhouses on the property.

William Lee's widow Josephine, who died in late July 1922, devised the property to her son Francis and her daughter-in-law Effie, Henry's wife, after leaving \$100 and \$250 to her sons Walter and Charles. A daughter mentioned in her obituary is not mentioned in the will. Since Harry and Effie had bought the lot next door to the east in 1915 but had not built on it by 1930, perhaps they lived in this house and cared for Mrs. Lee in her old age. In her will, marked "do not publish," Josephine Lee sounds disappointed, if not downright peeved. Francis, who died in 1942, left his share to Effie, as well. Probably she cared for him in his old age, too. He never married and seems always to have lived at home. Effie died before her husband, worried about who would take care of him. Her neighbor, Lillian Sauers, who lives at 124 West Gordon [HA-1792], took care of him, taking him hot meals and checking on his health. When he died, probably in the late 1960s (his will is dated 1968), Henry left the property to Mrs. Sauers. The house is, apparently, a monument to the nurturing skills and neighborliness of Effie Lee and Lillian Sauers.

Harold and Betty Potter bought the house from Mrs. Sauers in 1970. Betty Potter is the daughter of real estate agent Glen Tilley, who owned the Gore house, 122 West Gordon [HA-1791], three doors away. She and her sister, Virginia Torgerson, who lives in the house Effie and Henry ultimately built on their lot at 126 West Gordon [HA-1793], were raised in the Gore house. When the Potters divorced in 1983, Betty got the house, which she sold presently to Robert and Jean Gentry for \$55,000. That same year the Gentrys sold it to Bernard and Constance Gemmill for \$57,000. Both the Gemmills work at the Harford County Courthouse.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1724

Harford County Land Records. Site visit, 4 May 1993.
The Aegis, 19 July 1889, 28 July 1922.
Harford County Wills JA 16/407 and AJG 21/82

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Bel AirQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 2049 in the Town of Bel Air, .202 a.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Marilyn M. Lareworganization _____ date 6-2-93street & number RD 1 Box 219 New Park Rd. telephone 717-993-3557city or town New Park state PA 17352

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MAR 1993

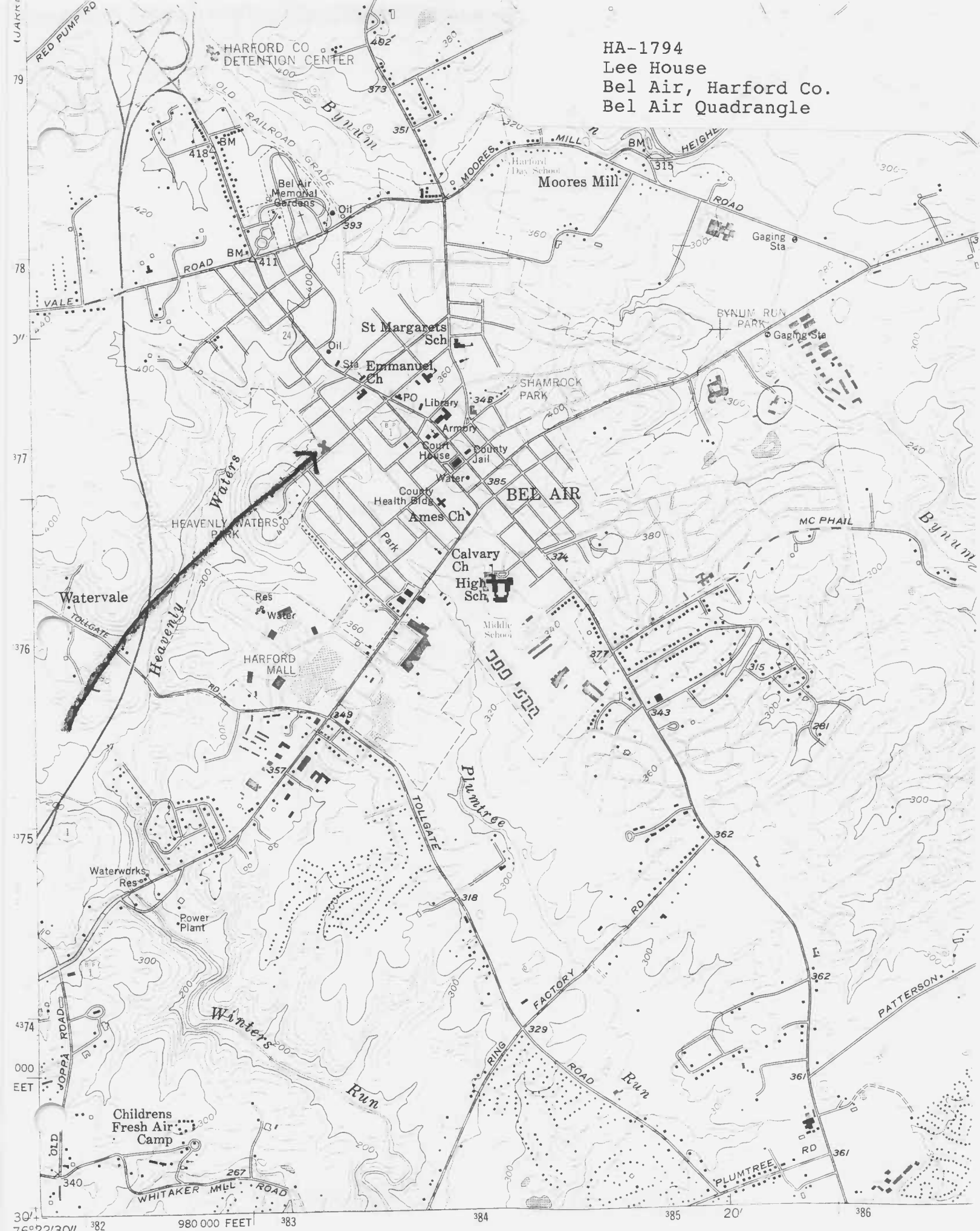
C-2

HA-1794
Lee House
330 West Gordon St.
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Bernard E. Gemmill

- 1211/42 9 December 1983
 Robert T. Gentry and Jean S., wife
 to
 Bernard E. Gemmill and Constance J., wife
 \$57,000 lot 1-b in revised resubdivision of lot 1 of lot
 1 of subdivision of lot of Lillian E. Sauers, plat
 book 48/112, improvements called 330 W. Gordon
- 1194/331 13 July 1983
 Betty N. Potter
 to
 Robert T. Gentry and Jean S., wife
 \$55,000
- 1183/22 25 Feb 1983
 Harold E. Potter
 to
 Betty N. Potter
- 859/311 2 Nov 1970
 Lillian H. Sauers, widow
 to
 Harold E. Potter and Betty N., wife
 devised by R. Henry Lee to Samuel E. Sauers and Lillian
 by will 301/10 21 May 1968
- part of
- 486/400 6 Aug 1957
 Zero Inc.
 to
 Effie F. Lee and R. Henry, husband
 straw deed to place R. Henry on
 two parcels
 1. this parcel sold to Josephine V. Lee by 63/463 by
 William S. Richardson et al 21 May 1889. Josephine d.,
 will 16/407, 10 Apr 1919. Son Francis Lee and Effie,
 wife of son R. Henry inherited. Francis L. Lee d.,
 will 21/82, 15 Sept 1923. Effie inherited.
 2. lots 20 and 21, block E, Richardson's Addition sold
 by 153/88, 25 May 1915 by Henrietta Rouse and husband
 to Effie F. Lee. (126 W. Gordon)

HA-1794
Lee House
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Bel Air Quadrangle





330 W. GORDON ST.
BEL AIR



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BEL AIR